

ZCOM News

District 15, Area 4

February 2011

“Name That Tune” with a Twist

The Intercity Dinner hosted by the Zonta Club of Saginaw on Tuesday, February 15th, at Apple Mountain was entertaining, delicious, fun, and instructional. Barb Gilchrist and Karen Courneya, co-chairs of the event, presented a format that encouraged participation and mingling as well as highlighting a very worthy cause their club helps fund.

Assigned seating assured that members from each club were intermingled at the



Karen Courneya and Saginaw Club raffle items.

tables. Yellow rose candies were at each place setting and beautifully crafted centerpieces decorated each table. As an indication of what was to come, each table also had a hand-shaped clacker that lit up when shaken.

Display tables were set up to present journals handmade by homeless Haitian women, a Vera Bradley travel/cosmetic collection (raffle item by the Midland Club), yellow rose cards, a 50/50 draw-

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Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 1, 11:30 am: Business Meeting, Midland Country Club

Tuesday, March 8, 6 pm: World's Greatest Dessert Party; contact Maria Cohoon to sign up!

Tuesday, March 15, 5:30 pm: Social Meeting, Midland Country Club; "Recruitment Night" with Jeff Phillips

Thursday, March 17, 7:15 am: Board Meeting, Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Thursday, March 17-19: Share the Memories, North Midland Family Center

Tuesday, April 5, 11:30 am: Business Meeting, Midland Country Club

Tuesday, April 19, 5:30 pm: **Zonta Auction!!!**

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Zontians,

Have you signed up with Maria Cohoon to volunteer at the Literacy Council's Greatest Dessert Party? Any Zontian who has helped at this event will tell you that it's well worth your time. The Literacy Council provides enough hosts and hostesses for one home on the Homewalk each year and this is our chance to help them out by serving desserts on Tuesday, March 8th.

Are you receiving the Zonta District 15 newsletter? Please let us know if you are not because it is an important source of information. Consider going to one of the four Spring Workshops that will be offered this year. Our club will reimburse the \$30 fee for attending and you will have a chance to meet Zontians from other clubs in District 15. The workshops provide opportunities to reframe and revitalize your club and its "connections" to members, your community, and Zonta International. The Zonta District 15 Spring Workshop will show clubs how to make little "connections" to make BIG things happen!



Have you sent Susan Putnam, Membership Chair, names of potential Zontians for her to invite to our March 15th dinner meeting? The program that evening will feature speaker Jeff Phillips and Cynthia Chilcote will give a brief presentation on Zonta International. The Zonta Club of Midland will cover the cost of potential members that evening.

Esther Seaver, President
Zonta Club of Midland



March Birthdays



Nan Blasy, March 3

Jill Van Buskirk, March 9

Ann Beck, March 13

Mary Hart, March 22

Diane Moomey, March 25

Melissa Grzegorzcyk, March 27

Linda Langrill, March 27

Margueritte Kuhn, March 28



Member Spotlight: Maureen Acker



Maureen was raised in Freeport, Illinois, where her parents promoted an interest in sports, education, adventure and giving back to the community. Consequently, Maureen won a city basketball competition, went to the state Science Fair, walked 20 miles (twice!) to help people with MS, received varsity letters in tennis and track and was a member of the math and debate teams and German Club. She spent her senior year in Cologne, Germany where she not only learned a new language and culture, but more importantly, learned how to adapt and adjust to a new environment. She graduated with a double major in Chemistry and German from Illinois State University.

Maureen has been employed at Dow Chemical Company for over 25 years where she's worked in research, technical service, new business development, and purchasing. She received numerous awards and recognitions for her leadership abilities during her career. Maureen has been a guest speaker at industry conferences both domestically and internationally.

One of Maureen's positions within Dow was as the business development leader for a division which included a portfolio of diagnostics and therapies targeting cancer. Working in this field increased Maureen's and her family's interest in helping those with cancer. Both Maureen and her daughter, Brianna have donated pony tails over 12" to Locks of Love. Maureen participated in the WAM (Wish a Mile) ride which is a 3-day 300 mile bike ride through Michigan which supports the Make A Wish Foundation. Maureen completed the event along with 1000 other riders which contributed over \$1,000,000 to the foundation.

Maureen has a strong passion for youth exchange as she was an exchange student herself. Her family has hosted five exchange students from a variety of countries. Her two daughters have also been engaged with youth exchange. Brianna spent a year in Mexico and Rachael is currently a student in Germany. Maureen is on the district staff for Rotary Youth Exchange.

Languages have also always intrigued Maureen. She has maintained her fluency in German and is now working on Spanish. This year she will be traveling to Spain and Chile for vacation and will have the opportunity to experience some immersion in the language. She hopes to someday be able to travel to Spanish speaking countries to assist with community outreach efforts. Let Maureen know if you are interested in joining the Spanish and German speaking groups she started.

Maureen enjoys being a member of Zonta and seeing how Zonta efforts make a difference in our community and globally. She is currently chair of the Services Committee.

Maureen has been married for 22 years to Tom Acker and they have two wonderful daughters, Brianna and Rachael. They are all certified SCUBA divers and love traveling to warm locations to dive. Maureen enjoys snowboarding, golfing, bicycling, running, and playing tennis with her friends and family.

One of Maureen's favorite quotes is from Helen Keller "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." Maureen hopes that she will continue to embrace the idea of adventure and never be too afraid to try new things.



Maureen eating a freshly caught live mollusk!

Intercity Dinner (continued from page 1)



ing, and two items raffled by the Saginaw Club: a sweet, sinful concoction called “Glazed Pecan Caramel Cheesecake (made by Karen Courneya) and a travel “trunk” loaded with kitchen items, coffees, teas, and other delicacies.

Music was the theme of the night as a word scramble was dropped on each table. Each word had something to do with a musical genre. Marty Viers provided the tunes that went with each genre. Table members were to shake their hand clackers if they could “Name That Tune.” It wasn’t long before there were parts of hand clackers flying around the room as excited guessers flapped them and shouted out answers. Marty Viers CDs went to the winners of highlighted tunes.

On a more serious note, Marcia Thurlow gave a brief presentation on the Haitian Foundation Against Poverty, which her daughter, Mallory, founded to help the people of Haiti, especially women and children. Mallory now lives in Haiti and has established a school, a medical center, a women’s shelter, and an orphanage. Haitian mothers, homeless and hungry since the earthquake, bring their children to the centers and just hand them over because they can’t care for them properly.

To help the women, Mallory set up a 6-month training program to show them how to start their own businesses to support themselves and their children. The women make the journals shown here and use the money to buy products to sell locally, like hygiene items and shoes. Half of the money is given to the women up front and the rest at the end of the 6-month course.



Each journal comes with a biography of the creator. It was amazing to hear that the women had to be shown how to use scissors and glue because they’d never seen either before. Their creations are colorful and useful and quite a few were sold during the evening.

Winners of the raffles were: Marcia Woodbridge (travel trunk of goodies); Chris Ward (cheesecake); Colette St. Louis (50/50); and Glenda Stephens (Vera Bradley collection).

Share the Memories will be held on March 17-19th at North Midland Family Center. If you have barely worn formal dresses, shoes, and accessories to donate or volunteer time to devote, please see page 7 for details. This wonderful event makes dreams come true!

Zonta Auction News and Views...



No, this car is not for sale. The stickers and tags you see on it are to let members know which vehicle is the transport for April auction items. So, the next time you come to a meeting, bring your treasures, re-gifts, empty baskets, artwork, and other donations and look for this car to store your goodies.

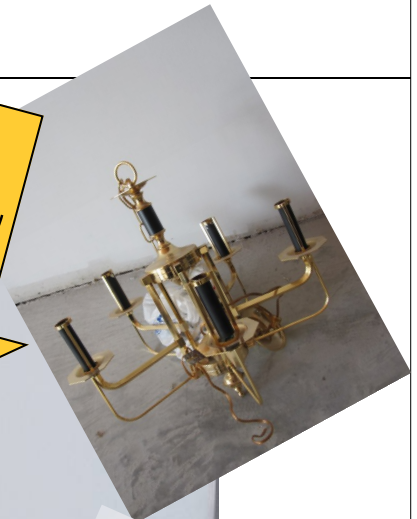
Sandy Weimer will have the vehicle as easily accessible as possible. You can't miss it...no other car in the lot will look like this!



Room for more.



Put your items HERE!



Fill this space.

WE NEED MORE STUFF!!!

(SEE PAGE 6)

Auction Open to Guests...Bring a Friend or Two!

Girls' Night Out!

The Zonta auction would be a fabulous time for a girls' night out!

Gather your girlfriends and bring them to the April 19th Zonta auction at the Midland Country Club. Have cocktails and appetizers while bidding on some outrageously fun merchandise.

New this year: Paypal for auction purchases!!!

- Remember to RSVP for your guest to Tammy Swinson at attendancechair@zontaclubofmidland.org by 11am April 15
- There will be no free potential member dinners on auction night. All members are expected to pay or collect the \$25 dinner fee for their guest(s).



Submitted by the Ways & Means Committee

What You Can Bid On

For the next couple of newsletters this segment will highlight certain items we've collected that will be available for you to bid on in April. The pictures on page 5 show some of them in detail: a beautiful flower-shaped bowl, a massager, a chandelier, framed artwork, and a festive holiday basket.

Sandy reports that there's an Apple Valley doll from Joanna Secrist. Each doll's face is hand-painted to look as close as possible to a real baby and every hair is put in individually. Apple Valley dolls have sold on eBay for \$600-\$700.

There are also green and black bags from the International Convention in San Antonio.

As you can see from the picture on page 5, there's a lot of empty space yet to be filled with auction items. It's time to uncover those Christmas gifts that aren't really your style or clean out your cupboards for collectible items. So many of our members have special talents or professions that lend themselves to auction. Don't be shy! Step up and offer your services for the good of the cause. The committee also needs baskets to hold smaller items that naturally go together so special "packages" can be created.

You Can Make Memories



Prom. One simple word. One great night. Hopefully, when you read the word “Prom” a smile appeared on your face and perhaps a picture of your date flashed through your mind. Perhaps you started to hum the theme song. And just maybe, you remembered you and your best friend doing some crazy dance moves on the floor.

In 2009, a community project called “Share the Memories” was created by North Midland Family Center and the Midland Newcomers Club to help the girls of mid-Michigan attend their prom and create some of the same memories. Our mission was and continues to be to help mid-Michigan high school students get a free prom dress. To date we have given away 350 formal dresses to girls from 42 area high schools and ARC who might not have otherwise been able to attend their prom.

The impact of this program is huge. First, the program allows for the recycling of gently used formal-wear. Many women have dresses hanging in their closets that they or their daughters have worn only once, never to be worn again. Second, it allows for girls to have a beautiful prom dress without the large expense in an economy that is already placing constraints on family budgets. Lastly and most importantly, the program allows the girls to have a boost in their self-esteem and confidence. Research conducted by The Legacy Center for Student Success shows that increasing these two areas of a girls internal assets has a direct correlation to lower rates of depression and participation in high risk behaviors.

Recently, Share the Memories was awarded a grant to help us with our operational costs. As a result, we would ask for your continued support in the form of volunteer hours and dress/accessory donations.

This year’s event will be held March 17-19, 2011 at the North Midland Family Center. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know.

Thank you for your past and present support!

Sincerely,

Becca Tointon
Share the Memories co-coordinator
835-2926
Email : sharethememories@gmail.com
Website: www.sharethememoriesmi.org

Riley Alley
North Midland Family Center—Director of Children and Family Services
689-7770

*** New Member Recruitment Night ***

March 15th Dinner Meeting

The Membership Committee needs everyone’s help in identifying women in our community who would be great Zonta members so invitations can be sent to them to attend this special evening. We will have an entertaining presentation by Jeff Phillips of Northwood University.

Please send your recommendations to Sue Putnam at Putnam@bbbsheartofmi.org, providing the name, business affiliation and mailing address. A formal invitation will be mailed.

Let’s see how many guests we can introduce to the membership on March 15th!



**Zonta Club of Midland
Business Meeting Minutes (unapproved)
Tuesday, February 1, 2011**

Zonta President, Esther Seaver, called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm. The meeting began with the Zonta Blessing and introductions.

Secretary's Report –The minutes of the January 4, 2011 meeting were presented for approval. Motion to approve as presented by Sharon Miller; supported by Chandra Morse; approved.

Treasurer's Report – Diane Moomey presented copies of the Treasurer's Report, including amendments to reflect the approved scholarships. Motion to accept the report by Jan McGuire; supported by Gwen Northrup; approved.

Standing Committee Reports

Assimilation/Retention/Rejuvenation (ARR) Committee – Nan Blasy: The January ZING, at Lisa Hulbert's home, was postponed, and will be rescheduled.

Archives Committee - Chair, Jill Van Buskirk: Meeting w/Melissa Barnard in near future.

Attendance – Chair, Tammy Swinson: RSVP for Intercity dinner will go out earlier than usual.

By-Laws Committee – Chair, Cynthia Chilcote: No report.

Fellowship Committee – Chair, Kate Maxwell: No Report.

Finance/Fundraising Committee – Cynthia Chilcote: No Report.

Homewalk Committee – Co-Chairs, Sharon Mortensen and Cathy Budd: Still need a co-chair. Have a new high-level sponsor already!

Intercity/United Nations Committee - Chair, Chandra Morse: The Intercity dinner is Feb. 15th at Kathleen's in Saginaw, 5:30 PM cocktails; regrets only.

Organization Membership/Classification - Chair, Susan Putnam: Patti Aspin, of the Midland Chamber of Commerce, is our newest member, as of today. March 15 dinner meeting is a membership drive; will send invitations from a list of suggestions by members. Jeff Phillips, will be the speaker.

Public Relations Committee – Esther Seaver: The new website is almost completed.

Status of Women in Service/Legislation/Advocacy – Chair, Maureen Acker: The committee has a few requests this month, and is looking for more. Literacy Council Dessert Party is March 8, at the Great Hall, Valley Plaza; sign up sheet passed around.

Ways and Means – Chair, Cari Francis: The April auction is coming up, and the committee is collecting items.

Parliamentarian – Kate Maxwell: No report.

Nominating Committee - Sue Moody: No report.

Past President – Sue Moody: No report.

Unfinished Business

None

Announcements

Melissa Anderson - Feb 17th is the Go Red for Women event. Check the website and posters for more information. The event is at Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw and the keynote speaker is the head chef from Weight Watchers.

Casey Pincumbe – Announced new salon & spa in the Bell Plaza.

Nan Blasy – Sign up for Aerobics Plus or another class at the Community Center.

The 50/50 Raffle: \$23 was won by Linda Malekadeli.

Dates to Remember

Feb. 15th – Intercity Dinner at Kathleen's at Apple Mountain in Freeland

Feb. 17th - 7:15 am – Board Meeting – Big Brothers Big Sisters

Meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Malekadeli, Secretary